

Newsletter no.3

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Our Man in Uganda

Meet our new member of staff, Brian Mugisha, who is now our Programme Manager overseeing operations in Uganda. Brian (standing on the left) is pictured here discussing a catcher box which has been designed and made by one of our latest projects, the Beekeepers Administrators Group. This group has been gaining a reputation as the 'bee busters' of Luwero district, catching swarms of bees at the request of local communities. With our support, it is now expanding its activities into honey production.

Thank you!

A sincere thank you to everyone who purchased hives and bees for presents over Christmas, and to the shoppers who purchased gifts from www.buy.at/hivessavelives. We also received many direct donations, and donations in lieu of Christmas cards. Thank you all, and during 2006, please keep us in mind for presents for that special occasion!

A special thank you is due to **Ray Curry** from Swansea. Ray recently became a 'We Can Do It' champion for his dedicated volunteering work in his community. He was awarded a £200 cheque from Swalec, the sponsors of the award, and promptly donated his prize money to Hives Save Lives.

During a recent assessment visit to Uganda, one of our Trustees, Martin Burgess, took the opportunity to present additional smokers, bee veils, overalls and airtight buckets to members of the United Gospel Rehabilitation Centre. The UGRC was one of our first projects, and thanks to donations from United Cooperatives and parishioners in Congleton, it is now embarking on a major expansion to train more members and extend its existing apiary.



Remember to shop at www.buy.at/hivessavelives and we earn a commission on your purchases!



We strive to create employment around our projects, and to source materials locally wherever possible. Here, the frames for the hives are being made at a vocational training centre, and the only material that we have to import into Uganda is the stainless steel wire for wiring the frames. Everything else, from smokers to bee veils, is manufactured locally, and the wood for the hives is purchased only from renewable resources.

A single hive costs just £32.00 to manufacture, and can produce over 50kg of honey a year. 20 hives can produce an income of £600 a year and substantially improve local crop yields through increased pollination. Beekeeping can make the difference between abject poverty and access to food, medicine and education.

Our objective for 2006 is to place 100 hives per month and provide training for groups who are striving to work their way out of the poverty spiral.

One of the biggest challenges facing beekeepers in Africa is the threat of ant infestation. To combat this, the hives are placed on simple stands. The legs are then painted with old engine oil, or placed in discarded tins which are then filled with oil or water, which creates a simple but effective deterrent to invading ants.



We have a limited number of small desk calendars for 2006 available at just £3.00 each. If you would like to order, simply send a cheque to P.O. Box 78, Saltdean, Brighton BN51 9AB, call 01273 302586 or email info@hivessavelives.com

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